

VOLUME 105 ISSUE 28

Top pit bosses show BBQ is an art form

63 TEAMS COMPETED IN A COOK-OFF THIS WEEKEND.

By ALEX ORLANDO Alligator Writer

It's 6 a.m., and Rooster Roberts is first to rise.

Before sunup, he's outside, piling meat into his smoker. In the 30-degree air, he rigs each slab of brisket and every rack of ribs with a thermometer.

Wrapped in a brown canvas jacket under his wide-brimmed cowboy hat, he preps his spices next to the smoker, more for warmth than convenience.

Then, he waits. Good brisket takes time.

Closed and wired, the smoker looks more like a space shuttle dashboard than an appliance. But in that metal box could be a

championship win.

By 10 a.m., most other contenders at the Bradford County Fairgrounds have gone through the same routine. It's Saturday morning, the last day of the Santa Fe College Boots-N-BBQ Cook-Off. Judgment day.

Some of the 63 barbecue teams have set up shop, catering to the 8,000 people who came through the festival over three days.

Roberts and his crew, known as Skin and Bones BBQ, are one of the vendors. Above the service counter are 30 banners showcasing the accolades of his six-year career. Those include 27 different state championships and two world championships. For 37 weekends a year, barbecue is his life. His secret: no sauce.

After a handful of his own spices and a 15-hour bath in hickory smoke, he said most of his meat doesn't need it.

That's his best advertiser, too. The weekend-long cold front blew the rising smoke down U.S. 301 so you could smell it from the Waldo speed trap 15 miles north of Gainesville.

"You get that smell — that aroma in there, and people go crazy," Roberts said.

Two lots over, Gordon Bryant, pit boss for GB's BBQ, leans over a rack of ribs with a paintbrush. He stacks them in a Styrofoam

box and paints on the sauce with the precision of a makeup artist.

He wipes away the sauce drippings around the ribs, eases the lid shut, then sends it to the judges five minutes before the noon deadline. In an aluminum-sided building

at the front of the fairgrounds, Den-

SEE BBQ, PAGE 8



Rooster Roberts flips a rack of ribs at the Santa Fe College Boots-N-BBQ Cook-Off. He was one of 63 pit bosses competing for a \$2,550 grand prize.

Two students die on trip

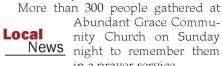
By MEREDITH RUTLAND Alligator Writer

Two UF students died Saturday while rappelling into a cave in northwest Georgia during a weekend trip with some friends.

Michael Pirie, a marketing freshman, and Grant Lockenbach, a sociology senior, were going down into Ellison's Cave in Walker County when they stopped responding to their friends' calls.

One of the friends called 9-1-1 at 2:19 p.m.

County officers speculated the cause of death was hypothermia but won't know for sure until autopsies have been completed. The coroner's report will be released early this week.



nity Church on Sunday News night to remember them in a prayer service.

Pirie, of Ocoee, was a drummer in the UF Drumline. Lockenbach, of De-Land, was the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of UF's ROTC program.

INTERNATIONAL Locals with ties to Egypt rejoice after revolution

By MORGAN WATKINS **Alligator Writer**

After 18 days of shouting, Egyptians could finally cheer Friday as President Hosni Mubarak transferred power to the military, ending his nearly 30-year reign. Although the nation's future remains

uncertain, it is a time of celebration for many Egyptians living across the globe, including those in Gainesville. For Ahmed Mohamed, a 47-year-old

assistant professor of geomatics at UF who lived in Cairo for 28 years, the revolt in Egypt has made him proud to call himself an Egyptian.

"It's led by the people," he said. "The brain, the head, the power, the enthusiasm — all the tools were tools of the eople of Egypt.'



When Mubarak resigned, the streets of Cairo swelled with people shaking hands, hugging and setting off fireworks, said Mahmoud Rushdi, a Cairo resident and brother of UF Ph.D. student Mu-

hammad Rushdi.

SEE EGYPT. PAGE 8

Florida junior guard Erving Walker (right) made a late layup to seal the Gators' 61-60 win over Tennessee on Saturday night. UF swept UT this season for the first time in nine years. See Story, Page 16.



MARATHON — Authorities say a Florida teen has told police that bite marks on her body came from "Twilight"-inspired vampire role playing - not from someone who attacked her while she was out jogging.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel reports that the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has charged the 15-year-old girl with making a false report.

Authorities say the girl is a fan of the vampire-based "Twilight" movies and books.

Authorities in Florida Keys say teenage 'Twilight' fan lied about bite marks The sheriff's office says the girl had engaged in "fantasy biting" with a 19-year-old man in August and worried her mother would see the marks. She told her mother she had been attacked while jogging.

When deputies couldn't find evidence of the attack, the girl eventually revealed what really happened.

No charges have been filed against the 19vear-old man.

- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



WHAT'S HAPPENING Indonesia Scholarship

Information Session Today, 4:30 p.m. Hub Room 170 The Freeman Foundation is offering a fully funded, ninesummer internship week study abroad opportunity in Indonesia. Internship fields include economic development, public health, art, education and environmental protection. Interested American and Indonesian sophomores and juniors are encouraged to apply.

RUB Entertainment Presents The Love Game

Today, 8 p.m.

Orange & Brew Visitors can participate in RUB's own of "The Dating own version Game.' Contestants of the game will win special prizes to share with each other.

Get Your Mind Right

Tuesday, 7 p.m. Ustler Hall 2nd floor This Black Woman's Image Initiative session will addresses the importance of psychological issues, how to go about seeking help, how to recognize symptoms and how to become healthy inside and out.

Advocates' Community **Roommate** Mixer Tuesday, 7 p.m. Graham Gallery Come to the Roommate Mixer to meet some new people or

FORECAST



even a potential roommate. There will be free food. To RSVP or for event details, look for the Facebook event, "CA Roommate Mixer." This event is sponsored by the Community Advocates and UF's Office of Off-Campus Life.

PEM Debate on Health Care Legislation

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Reitz Union Room 276 Pre-Med AMSA's Politics and Ethics in Medicine (PEM) is having its first debate on health care reform, specifically whether the U.S. should adopt a single-payer system. Please e-mail pem@ ufpremed.org to RSVP.

Psychology Club & Psi Chi Meeting

Wednesday, 7:20 p.m. Little Hall Room 101 The group will be discussing the interviewing process for graduate school. This is the last meeting to turn in dues and donations for the Arbor House. As always, come early for pizza. For more information and updates, go to www.psych.ufl.edu/~psichi

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RUB Entertainment Local Brew

Series Thursday, 8 p.m.

Orange & Brew RUB Entertainment presents The Righteous Kind with locals Pseudo Kids and The Footlights for free. For more information about the Local Brew series, as well as other events, become a fan of RUB Entertainment on Facebook and follow rubentertain on Twitter.

Got something going on?

Want to see it in this space? Send an e-mail with "Ŵhat's Happening" in the subject line to ebehrman@alligator. org. Please model your submissions after above events. Improperly formatted "What's Happening" submissions may not appear in the paper. Press releases will not appear in the paper.

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B.o.B to headline O'Connell Center show

■ STUDENT TICKETS COST \$11.

By KRISTIN LOPOPOLO Alligator Contributing writer

To mark the end of Black History Month, UF's Student Government Productions spent \$120,000 to bring rappers B.o.B, Wale and J. Cole to the O'Connell Center on Feb. 26.

Student tickets go on sale at noon today.

UF ADMINISTRATION

By ALEXANDER KLAUSNER

Alligator Staff Writer

into excitement after he checked

his status online and saw "Con-

gratulations!" on the screen of

School senior originally planned

a victory lap around his neigh-

borhood, he instead dashed

around his sister's apartment

Some 11,423 high school se-

UF spokesman Steve Orlan-

niors celebrated Friday as UF

announced the students accept-

ed for the 2011 freshman class.

complex in Altamonte Springs.

Though the Gainesville High

his Toshiba laptop Friday.

UF after all.

Kyle Calhoun, the SG Productions music and entertainment chairman, said the concert will be an event students will not want to miss because the performers are reaching the peak of their musical

On careers. Campus The headline act, B.o.B, also known as Bobby Ray, is a rapper, singer and music producer who became well-known for his single "Airplanes" featuring Hayley Williams of Paramore.

The artist was nominated for five Gram-

my Awards, including Record of the Year and Best Rap Album.

"It's incredible that this star agreed to come to campus," Calhoun said. "B.o.B may be out of reach next year because he is becoming a big star."

UF students can purchase tickets for \$11 plus service fees. They will be sold at the University Box Office.

Everyone else can purchase tickets on ticketmaster.com for \$32.65 starting at noon Tuesday.

THIS WEEK **W GAINESVILLE**

February 14, 1964: UF students are surprise stars when the production crew for "Candid Camera" hits campus. A fake invite to have dinner with President Reitz and sudden splashes from sprinklers comprised a few of the pranks caught on tape during the week of the visit.

February 14, 1968: Dr. James Cade, the man behind Gatorade, announces he's created a companion beverage called Gator-Go. The drink is designed as a pregame beverage that helps muscles store carbohydrates "to keep the player's endurance up.

Gator-Go, which is similar in texture to milk, comes in malt, vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and rum-maple.

February 15, 1994: Gainesville gets some closure as Danny Rolling pleads guilty to the murder of five college students, about three and a half years after the killings.

"I've been running from one thing or another," he said. "Prob-lems at home or with the law. Some things you just can't run from - this is one of them.

- KAT BEIN

UF adds newest members of Gator Nation do said he expects 6,400 of those percent of its applicants in 2000, accepted to enroll. The university was begin-

"I know it's hard for some Michael Cornwell got into people to believe, but not everybody who is admitted comes After worrying for weeks, to the University of Florida," he the 18-year-old's anxiety turned said.

university received The 29,269 applications. Students who were admitted had an average GPA of 4.3, SAT score of 1963 and ACT score of 30.

Since 2000, the university has accepted an average of 11,443 students and had an average freshman class size of 6,684.

However, the percentage of students accepted versus the number of students applying has declined steadily over the past 10 years. UF accepted 62.5

but in 2009, accepted 41.9 percent.

Orlando credited the selectivity to an increase in the university's prestige.

"Maybe a few years ago, the students we were admitting were deciding between UF. FSU and the University of Georgia," he said. "But now, students the

decidare ing between UF, Stanford and

MIT." However, the university isn't being as selective as it once

ning an initiative to fix its student-faculty ratio. Its solution was to take less students. But to offset the \$150 mil-

lion the university has lost due to budget cuts, it has had to freeze the cut-down on incoming freshmen, Orlando said.

"We're not bringing in more, we're just not bringing in less,' he said.

Still, the university's admission process remains a competitive ordeal, and Orlando said the students benefit.

"When it comes time to graduate, we're being recognized for the quality of students we turn out," Orlando said.

Tiew these stories and more at www.insideuf.ufl.edu

law and director of the UF Race Center, said, "It's rare to have an opportunity to

hear directly from people who've participated in the civil rights movement. The Dues are living testimony to the national impact of local political struggles. We are pleased that they will join us and that their visit has brought more than 12 university and community groups together to present the event."

For those who cannot attend the program, it will be recorded and streamed live on the Bob Graham Center for Public Service's homepage at http://www.graham. centers.ufl.edu/home. Additionally, the video stream will be posted at the Graham Center's events archive at http://www. graham.centers.ufl.edu/events/past.

By Estee Beck

DANCE 2011: 2280! PINTS!

Nadine McGuire Black Box Theatre February 18-19 & 22-26 at 7:30 pm February 20 & 27 at 2:00 pm

Stupendous, hilarious, poignant, and outrageous-a few words that only begin to capture the glory of this highly original work of dance theatre created by New York choreographer and UF faculty member Neta Pulvermacher.

Tickets \$13-\$17 at University Box Office

DCP showcase this week

The University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning's annual Research Showcase Thursday and Friday will focus on the use of technology within the classroom and the profession as well as other timely issues such as sustainability. Visit http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/ research/research-showcase for more information or to register.

Help coach win challenge

Basketball Coach Billy Donovan is competing in the national ESPN "Infiniti Coaches' Charity Challenge" to win \$100,000 for the Sebastian Ferrero Foundation, which would use the proceeds to build Shands Hospital for Children and Women at the University of Florida.

Register at www.ESPN.com/Infiniti, and vote once a day from now until March 11.

Contest blends science, art

Faculty, staff, students and alumni have until Feb. 28 to submit artistic 2-D representations of their scientific research for the third annual "Elegance of Science" art contest sponsored by the Marston Science Library.

The contest will showcase research at UF in an imaginative and distinctive format. Judges will award first-, second- and third-place prizes. For details and an entry form see http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/art.

InsideUF is produced by the University Relations Office for faculty, staff and students. Editor - Ron Wayne





Civil rights pioneers visit UF for program

In 1960, one Florida A&M University student changed civil rights history forever.

After fighting for the integration of a lunch counter, Patricia Stephens Due was arrested along with six other civil rights advocates. They were the first protesters who chose to serve jail time instead of paying a fine, and their actions received national attention.

Stephens Due and her husband, civil rights attorney John Due, will speak about their role in the civil rights movement in "An Evening with the Dues: Pioneers in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement," at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Buddy & Anne MacKay Auditorium in Pugh Hall. There will be free parking next to Pugh Hall the evening of the event.

"An Evening with the Dues" is being organized by the UF Center for the Study of Race and Race Relations and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.

The event will be moderated by noted civil rights activists Zoharah Simmons and

UF Calendar of Events

For a listing of events, or to submit an event to the calendar, click 'UF Calendar" at www.insideuf.ufl.edu.

question?"



FREEDOM

IN THE FAMILY

Dan Harmeling. There will be a book signing with copies of "Freedom

Orlando

in the Family: A Mother-Daughter Memoir of the Fight for Civil Rights," by Patricia Stephens Due and Tananarive Due

available for purchase.

"The emphasis of 'An Evening with the Dues,' is to learn about the history of the struggle for civil rights in Florida and to ask the question: How do we build on the achievements of the past?" said Paul Ortiz, the director of the oral history program. "Who better than Patricia Stephens Due and John Due, who are considered to be among the most important civil rights activists in the nation, to help us address this

Katheryn Russell-Brown, professor of

LOCAL Civic Media Center plays role of city's liberal library

By MEREDITH RUTLAND Alligator Writer

It's an axis of activism, a core of counter-culture and a hub for all things left-winged in Gainesville. The Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St., is a library where self-described liberals and anarchists meet to organize, network and unwind.

In this building, the wheels of rebellion turn.

"The CMC plays a role in our lives somewhat in the way the church plays a role in a religious person's life," said store coordinator James Schmidt. "There's no other place like this in Gainesville, that's for sure."

The center is the only "info shop" in the city, a place that

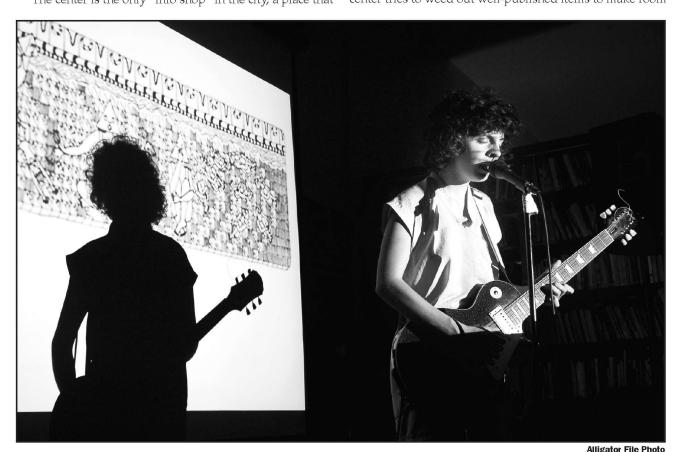
lends out books, DVDs and other materials public or university libraries don't have.

About 10,000 books on protest case studies, theories power and tales of life outside the social norm line the shelves seven levels high.

A heart-shaped bowl that holds free Crown condoms and an accompanying bilingual how-to pamphlet sit on the main desk

Schmidt, 40, said the Alachua County Public Library is slowly starting to update its database to include the store's books, everything from "Communists, Cowboys and Queers" to "The Peasants' Revolt of 1381."

Romy Newbold, a 22-year-old store volunteer, said the center tries to weed out well-published items to make room



Dewayne Slightweight plays a song she wrote during an event called FINGERS at the Civic Media Center in Gainesville

for rare ones "It sucks," she said. "We just don't have room for everything.

Stop by at 2 p.m. when the store opens, and it will feel like a library — quiet and calm. Stop by at night for an event, and it's a different story.

One of the stranger events the Civic Media Center held was a nude drawing class, Schmidt said. In the late 1990s, the City Commission instituted an ordi-

nance against nudity within a certain radius of downtown. The ordinance was meant to prevent a strip club from being built, but a Gainesville nudist decided to protest.

The center blocked out its windows and set up stations where people could draw him.

"Anyone who walked in the space would encounter a live, nude human," Schmidt said.

He said the library originally opened on University Avenue in the building that houses Mochi Frozen Yogurt and 101 Cantina.

Activist groups came together and realized there was one thing they were lacking - a place of their own. Usually, the activists met in a house or a church, but they needed something more.

They decided on a library and filled it with stacks of books and other periodicals that Charles Willett, the founder of the alternative magazine Counterpoise, kept after his magazine reviewed them.

"He didn't know what to do with the stuff, but he was excited about the material," Schmidt said.

While they were planning, the group decided it would be inspirational to have Noam Chomsky, a well-known political activist, speak in Gainesville. They booked his appearance two years in advance.

Members of the group scheduled the store's grand open-ing to coincide with Chomsky's visit, Oct. 18, 1993. Six months later, the center moved to 1021 NW Univer-

sity Ave., right next door to Gator Dawgs.

About 10 years later, the center moved to its Main Street location.

Schmidt said the library stays in business because of the community

"Frankly, for most of its existence, the center has existed from month to month," he said, holding a donation record that read "How to Feed the Civic Media Center." "For the first time in a few years, we have money in the bank again."

Visitors and volunteers said the center is just too special to them. They couldn't bear to see it go under, so they give time and money.

"People bend over backwards for this place," Newbold

Memorial honors 10th anniversary of officer's death

NO SUSPECTS WERE EVER NAMED.

on May 31, 2009.

By SARAH POSER Alligator Contributing Writer

More than 100 people gathered Saturday night behind Gainesville High School to honor the memory of former Gainesville Police Officer Scott M. Baird.

Baird died Feb. 12, 2001, after responding to a call about a large metal batting cage blocking Northwest 16th Terrace. He was waiting for a tow truck to move the cage when a passing vehicle collided with the cage, knocking it into Baird and killing him instantly.

Police believe the cage was placed in the street as a prank but never charged anyone in connection to the accident.

"This service is a reminder that all he did is not in vain," said Kelly Gaudet, Baird's mother.

She said she wants people to remember that Northwest 16th

Terrace, which was renamed Officer Scott M. Baird Boulevard, is not just a street but also the place where her son lay down his life.

A new stone monument was placed at the site Thursday to mark where Baird lost his life.

Cpl. Tracy Fundenburg, who organizes the candlelight vigil each year, said Gaudet is a hero for the way she's persevered and triumphed over the tragedy.

Fundenburg said the vigil helped to remember Baird's life and honor his service to the department.

"Scott was a good guy, and you can tell how well-liked he was by this turnout," she said.

Gainesville Police Chief Tony Jones said he can empathize with Baird's family as he lost a son years ago.

Jones said his department is still committed to finding those responsible for Baird's death.

"We would like to bring those individuals to justice one day," he said.



Family and friends gather to honor and remember Officer Scott M. Baird behind Gainesville High School during the 10th Annual Officer Scott M. Baird memorial on Saturday.

Egypt's military rulers dissolve nation's parliament

■ THEY ALSO PROMISED TO HOLD ELECTIONS, BUT DID NOT SET A TIMETABLE.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO - Egypt's military rulers took sweeping action to dismantle the autocratic legacy of former President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday, dissolving parliament, suspending the constitution and promising elections in moves cautiously welcomed by pro-democracy protesters.

They also met with representatives of the broad-based youth movement that brought down the government after an 18-day uprising that transfixed the world.

The caretaker government, backed by the military, said restoring security was a top priority even as labor unrest reflected one of the many challenges of steering the Arab world's biggest nation toward stability and democracy.

On Sunday, prominent activist Wael Ghonim posted on a Facebook page he manages notes from a meeting between members of the military council and youth representatives, which he described as encouraging.

The military defended the caretaker gov-

March 25th – 27th

Orange Co. Convention Center • Hall D • Orlando FL

TV & MOVIE CELEBRITIES ANIME SCI-FI FANTASY COMICS & COLLECTIBLES LEGO DISPLAYS TOYS PIRATES Q&A DISCUSSION PANELS BELLY DANCING NETWORK GAMING TATTOO PAVILION SPEED DATING

ernment, stocked with Mubarak loyalists, as necessary for now in the interests of stability but pledged to soon change it, said Ghonim and another protester, Amr Salama, in the statement.

"They said they will go after corrupt people no matter what their position current or previous," the statement added. Amendments to the much reviled constitution will be prepared by an independent committee over the next 10 days and then presented for approval in a popular referendum to be held in two months, they said.

The military also encouraged the youth to consider forming political parties — some-thing very difficult to do under the old system and pledged to meet with them regularly.

"We felt a sincere desire to protect the gains of the revolution and an unprecedented respect for the right of young Egyptians to ex-press their opinions," Ghonim said.

Even amid the efforts to build a new system, Egypt's upheaval has splintered into a host of smaller grievances, the inevitable outcome of emboldened citizens feeling free to speak up, most for the first time.

Egypt's state news agency announced banks would be closed Monday due to strikes and again Tuesday for a public holiday. Dozens of employees protested against alleged cor-

RED BY:

ruption at the state television building, which broadcast pro-Mubarak messages during the massive demonstrations against his rule.

The caretaker government met for the first time, and employees removed a huge frame photograph of Mubarak from the meeting room before they convened.

The crowds in the protest encampment that became a symbol of defiance against the gov-- the first workernment thinned out Sunday ing day since the regime fell. Traffic flowed through downtown area for the first time in weeks. Troops cleared most of the makeshift tents and scuffled with holdout activists.

The protesters have been pressing the rul-ing military council, led by Defense Minister International News with the transition by

appointing a presidential council, dissolving parliament and releasing political prisoners. Thousands have remained in Tahrir Square and some want to keep up the pressure for immediate steps, including repeal of repressive emergency laws that give police broad power.

As Egypt embarked on its new path — one of great hope but also deep uncertainty - the impact of its historic revolt and an earlier uprising in Tunisia was evident in a region where democratic reform has made few inroads.

Yemeni police clashed Sunday with pro-testers seeking the ouster of the U.S.-backed president, and opposition groups planned a rally in Bahrain on Monday. Demonstrators have also pushed for change in Jordan and Algeria, inspired by the popular revolt centered in downtown Cairo.

The 18-member Supreme Council of the Armed Forces allayed some concerns by dismissing the legislature, packed with Mubarak loyalists, and sidelining the constitution, used by Mubarak to buttress his rule. Activists said they would closely watch the military to en-sure it does not abuse its unchecked power - something that is clearly starting to make some uneasy.

The council "believes that human freedom, the rule of law, support for the value of equality, pluralistic democracy, social justice, and the uprooting of corruption are the bases for the legitimacy of any system of governance that will lead the country in the upcoming period," the Council said in a statement.

The military council, which has issued a stream of communiques since taking power, said parliamentary and presidential elections will be held, but did not set a timetable. It said it will run the country for six months, or until elections can be held. It said it will represent Egypt in all internal and external affairs and proclaimed the right to set temporary laws.

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Editorial Search engine abuse skews results

Think for a moment about how much trust we put into Internet search engines like Google. They are our springboards to the otherwise nearly impenetrable expanse of information available online.

That's why it's a bit disturbing that a single company — JCPenney — manipulated the largest search engine in the world for months on end without Google noticing. When The New York Times saw the department store showing as the top Google search result for everything from bedding to dresses, they brought in an expert who explained the devious means companies use to attain higher results.

JCPenney planted links in abandoned sites to boost its standings- and it worked, to Google's dismay. The search engine has since tried to correct the problem manually, but the damage to our trust is done. With as enormous a place to patrol as the Internet, how are search engines supposed to stop people from breaking the rules and falsifying the results? The simple answer is that they can't: People always will find a way around the guidelines.

That leaves us, the searchers, questioning the order in which results are presented to us. We're left wondering if the top result is really the most popular website for a given term or if its placement comes as a result of some stringpulling. If nothing else, the problem proves once again that we're making the rules up as we go with the Internet.

Seeking a Spectacle

The game's over, and our team won. It's time to turn off the TV and remember it could have gone either way but that our guys came back and snagged a victory. When's the next game, anyway? We're not talking about the last Gators bas-

ketball game. This is the American mentality toward the transition of power during and after the revolution in Egypt.

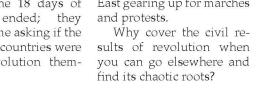
The structure our media follow made the revolution both possible (How many stories did we hear about Twitter in Egypt?) and too slow for our tastes.

anchors Our news seemed to tire of the events far before the 18 days of protesting ended; they spared no time asking if the neighboring countries were due for revolution themselves.

We know our collective attention span is short, but a complete overhaul of a government central to a key political region of the world should command our attention for more than a few minutes.

Beyond that, until journalists started disappearing and our beloved Anderson Cooper got roughed up, we usually received information with a tone of spectacle.

Now that the interesting photo opportunities are gone and cars aren't burning through the night in Tahrir Square, we'll see less about the country on its way to a more democratic future and more about other countries in the Middle East gearing up for marches





MANAGING EDITORS The Alligator encourages comments from readers. Letters to the editor should not exceed 150 words (about one letter-sized page). They must be typed, double-spaced and must include the author's name, classification and phone number. Names will be withheld if the writer shows just cause. We reserve the right to edit for length, grammar, style and libel. Send letters to letters@alligator.org, bring them to 1105 W. University Ave., or send them to P.O. Box 14257, Gainesville, FL 32604-2257.Columns of about 450 words about original topics and editorial cartoons are also welcome. Questions? Call 376-4458.

Penney Pincher Opinions

ALLIGATOR www.alligator.org/opinion



Column Boycott hurts conservative movement

t may be "the economy, stupid," but this weekend, the first shots were fired in the looming civil war among members of the GOP.

The growing rift between "fiscal" and "social" conservatives was on full display during this year's annual Conservative Political Action Conference.

Better known as CPAC, the event allows conservatives across the nation to come together to meet likeminded individuals and mingle with potential presidential candidates.

However, this year's event was more noticeable for groups attending - and not attending - than for anything else put forth at the conference.

Due to the inclusion of and participation of GO-Proud, a group that openly advocates for the ideas of gay conservatives, several socially conservative groups and individuals boycotted the conference.

By doing so, they made known their opposition to GOProud's laissez-faire positions on social issues, and, initially, they created a buzz in the media.

However, this coverage rarely went beyond stating these groups were not attending, and it seldom focused on the reasoning behind their decisions not to attend.

It is common knowledge that the best test of a political position is its ability to gain acceptance in the marketplace of ideas.

By boycotting the conference, socially conservative groups allowed GOProud and its allies to have unfettered access to this marketplace.

They gave them the ability to advocate their ideas with little opposition.

The marketplace of ideas functions effectively only if all ideas are equally represented.



For instance, some attendees and politicians at CPAC suggested social issues weren't as important in the current tough economic times.

Zack Smith letters@alligator.org

ment.

They hinted these issues should be minimized because they serve only as divisions within their otherwise unified conservative move-

Whether one agrees or disagrees with this statement is unimportant.

The fact that the most vocal socially conservative groups were not present to rebuff this assertion deprived other attendees from hearing the other side of this message.

Their stance is that social issues are still important even in these tough economic times because they define who we are as a nation.

Because this side of the debate was not put forth at the conference, social conservatives run the risk that others would fail to grasp this important concept and would decide to accept the other side's arguments as the truth.

While boycotting a few high-profile events might be an effective strategy to raise awareness for an issue in the short term, it is fraught with peril as a long-term strategy.

Social conservatives must put forth their ideas on an equal footing with others or risk losing their access to the marketplace of ideas altogether.

Zack Smith is a first-year law student. His column appears on Mondaus.

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of the Alligator.

Reader response

Today's question: Do you have a Valentine?

Friday's question: Do you think Detroit should install a RoboCop statue?

51% YES 49% NO

Vote or post a message at www.alligator.org

UWire Final verdict on Apple's iPhone 4

pple has just announced the biggest thing since The Beatles (on iTunes, at least): The iPhone 4 is coming to Verizon.

Buzz has been surrounding the iPhone and Verizon for the past two years, but nothing was announced until earlier this month. The iPhone 4 is going to be released Feb. 10 under conditions that are still not exactly spelled out by Verizon. Should consumers eagerly wait for Verizon stores to open that day, or should they wait until the deal is clearer and possibly better? While new and shiny technol-

ogy is always exciting, consumers probably should be aware that, while Verizon has announced the cost of the iPhone — between \$199.99 and \$299.99 for two-year plans and \$649.99 to \$749.99 full retail price, the company has yet to state the cost of a data package for the iPhone.

Verizon's website vaguely references the data package, but a real answer is elusive. The company's FAQ reads, "Customers will also be required to activate a data package, pricing will be announced at a later date.'

If the pricing is similar to other smart phone data packages, it will be \$15 or higher, as initially priced on the Verizon website, although Kait McNamee the cost of a package for UWire the

with berrv unlimited email and web is \$29.99 per month according to Verizon's online shopping assistant. This price does not include a phone plan itself, which can run up to \$69.99 for unlimited calls.

Black-

For a buyer who can afford the phone itself, standard monthly fees and a data package plan, the iPhone is a good choice. Otherwise, buyers might want to hang in there until prices go down.

According to the company's FAQ, they conveniently have covered all the bases of the iPhone. For example, people who purchased a smart phone for the holidays and weren't aware of the iPhone release are "eligible to receive up to a \$200 Visa debit card when they purchase an iPhone 4 at full retail price."

With a full retail price of \$649.99 or \$749.99, a \$200 Visa debit doesn't seem like too much of a bargain. Also, while the iPhone has strong consumer loyalty due to branding and marketing by Apple, it is not come recommended by profession-

In July, Consumer Reports magazine stated it could not recommend the iPhone 4 in several articles, citing signal loss issues when an area on the left side of the phone was blocked by a hand or finger. While Apple grappled with this issue and made recalls, the iPhone 4 has still not received the stamp of approval from Consumer Reports.

Verizon's iPhone is different from AT&T's, so the signal loss issue might be fixed, and Apple went to great lengths to give customers a free case for the faulty iPhones, but Consumer Reports further criticized Verizon for releasing a midyear replacement when the release of a new iPhone is expected in the summer.

While buyers can't base every decision on the magazine, which recommends waiting until a newer iPhone comes out to make the purchase, they have to weigh the options. Owning the newest technology may be important to some people, but maybe not when they are paying for a new phone, a calling plan and an undisclosed amount for a data plan. On top of that, consumers will have to pay a trade-in fee to get the newest iPhone in the summer.

The verdict: You probably can survive for six more months without buying the latest iPhone.

Kait McNamee is a student at the University of Colorado-Denver.

UWire Department of Health announces plan to extend coverage to college students

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a new plan to extend coverage to an additional 3 million college students through the Affordable Healthcare Act of 2010 by adding addi-

tional benefits to the student health care plans. In a conference call with college media outlets Wednesday, the HHS discussed the effect of new provi-

sions in health care reform legislation. HHS Division Director Steve Larsen opened the discussion by saying the new proposal provides extra protection to college students not currently protected by the national health care law.

"One of the most vulnerable groups in our old health care system was young adults, especially those in college," said Larsen. "When our young people graduated from college they not only looked for a job, but they were also looking for a job with benefits."

Jessica Moore, spokeswoman for HHS said as of Jan. 1, 2012, pre-existing conditions and medication exclusion policies would be discontinued. The ban on lifetime benefit caps will take effect on Jan.1, 2014.

"In addition to the restrictions being lifted on medications like insulin, the proposal requires that college and universities health care plans meet an 80 cents per dollar ratio with 80 cents going to pay for health care, not for administration costs," Moore said.

According to HHS statistics, Larsen says he felt like college students were ignored and often fell through the cracks of the old health care system.

"America's young people are more than 20 percent more likely to go without health insurance," Larsen said. "This means that there are thousands of young people wondering about how they are going to pay for their next doctor's visit, who do have the medicines they need. This new proposal will provide coverage and answers to those students."

Ethan Colbert UWire

Larsen pointed out students impacted by the new proposal are those who receive health insurance through their university's

student health care plans.

"Nationwide, 1,500 to 2,000 colleges and universities offer their students a student health care plan," Larsen said. "The Affordable Health Care Act did nothing to impact these students. This proposal will allow those 3 million students who participate in student health care plans to receive coverage that every other American receives through the new health care law."

Aaron Smith, of Young Invincibles, a Washington D.C. lobbyist firm for young Americans, says this is not a new issue or even a win-lose issue but a win-win for all young Americans.

"As a whole this debate over universal health care is nothing new. This is not a debate where one side has to win and another has to lose," Smith said. "Instead this is a win-win, because this proposal will result in extended coverage for college students."

Larsen said the proposal reinforces the new guidelines about restrictions and makes them applicable to all students with student health care plans.

"For every 20 schools offering coverage, eight had exclusion principles in place like pre-existing conditions, lifetime benefit caps, medication exclusion — the list goes on and on," Larsen said.

Steve Bloom, of the American Council of Education, which represents the interests of higher education institutions, says the ACE is extremely pleased with this result.

"Our primary concern for our students is always quality health care, access to health care and affordability," Bloom said.

Ethan Colbert is a student at the University of Missouri.

UWire Facebook may be useful as law enforcement tool

Jacebook — it's a great tool to keep in touch with friends and family. It's useful for employers to profile prospective employees.

And now, it's become a great tool for police departments and prosecuting attorneys.

"It's the 21st-century version of a private investiga-tor following you," said Trevor Wells, an attorney with Lexington's Miller Wells.

Wells explained that while conducting research about the use of social networking sites in court cases for a continuing legal education seminar for the bar,

Ally Rogers UWire

he found that "every couple of months the number doubled with the cases involving Facebook.

While larger police departments and law firms use Facebook

and other social networking sites to find evidence for domestic relations, gang-related and personal injury cases, smaller PDs use the networks less aggressively.

"We've used Facebook in the past to gather information related to crimes," said Joe Monroe, chief of the University of Kentucky Police Department.

Monroe explained that, contrary to popular belief, the UKPD does not use Facebook as a way to locate student parties. He said that not only would that process be a fulltime job, it would be a waste of the UK-PD's resources, manpower and time.

Currently, the UKPD operates one Facebook page. It represents the organization as a whole and, according to Monroe, is used simply as another way to communicate with the public.

However, more than a year ago, UKPD detectives used Facebook as a means to an end in cases related to theft, robbery and drugs.

Monroe said the process didn't involve a random search or fake profiles — instead, the detectives had suspects in mind and simply conducted a search to see public information, which was displayed on unblocked profiles. From there the detectives followed trails of evidence and submitted documentation to the courts.

"As long as people post things blindly, Facebook will be a useful tool," Monroe said.

Northern Kentucky University Police Department Sgt. Will Love said, similar to UKPD, that the only Facebook page they operate is one for community relations. However, he said in previous years it has been useful to locate students who had otherwise been unreachable by concerned parents.

"We use it if it helps, but it's not the first place we

go," Love said. "Social networks in general are a great way to give and get information. It's a wonderful way to open a dialogue with the community," said Sherelle Roberts, the public information officer for the Lexington Division of Police.

She said that social networking sites have been used in Lexington investigations. Most incriminating infor-mation has been posted to public profiles via video or photos on Flickr, YouTube, Facebook and Myspace.

"It's impossible to quantify Facebook's use in cases," Roberts said, adding that over the last decade the Internet has been a tremendous tool in gathering information and identifying criminal activity. Monroe said nearly 75 percent of police departments

use Facebook in some fashion. Developing undercover Facebook or Myspace pages is nearly beyond the scope of necessity for campus police departments, but not entirely out of the question for larger organizations.

Wells explained that private profiles aren't entirely out of the reach of the law either.

"More and more we're seeing formal requests (being filed) for Facebook page activity," he said. Other realms of the legal system are using social

networks for cases as well, and it most likely will continue to grow in this day and age

Ally Rogers is a student at the University of Kentucky.

Adults play kickball for a cause

■ TEAMS COMPETED FOR \$14,000 IN PRIZE MONEY FOR CHARITY.

By GREG LUCA Alligator Staff Writer

Imagine recess on steroids. That's what the Alachua County Emerging Leaders created when they took a childhood classic - kickball — and infused it with 32 teams composed of adults competing for \$14,000 in prize money.

After about eight hours and seven matches, the Nationwide Insurance team, playing for the American Heart Association, took home the top prize of \$5,000 in the fifth annual ACEL Champions for Charity Kickball Tournament, held Saturday at Diamond Sports Park.

Team Nationwide, which was playing its first tournament and had held only one 45-minute practice before the event, captured the title with a 1-0 victory over Frankel Media Group, the defending champions.

"I thought we'd be lucky to get in the top four. That was our goal," said J.W. Scott, a member of Team Nationwide. "Winning it was just icing on the cake."

Scott said his team owes the victory to "rover" Joe Pizzimenti, who Scott said would have been the team's most valuable player if they gave out such an honor.

Pizzimenti led a defense that gave up just four runs in its last five games as Team Nationwide captured the championship in front of dozens of fans.

For its effort, Frankel Media Group will receive \$2,500, which goes directly to the Sebastian Ferrero Foundation. In all, half the teams walked away with prize money.

Even with such large sums on the line, the majority of teams were able to keep their cool and focus on what was most important.

"Some are more competitive than others, but it's for charity, so fun is the key," said Reu Woodruff, a three-time member of the formerchampion Gainesville Jaycees. "Most people have a focus on what the real aim of the whole thing is."

The juxtaposition of competition and entertainment at the event provided a little something for all the uniform-clad participants.

"It was top notch — an A-plus effort by ACEL," Scott said. "We'll definitely be back next year."



Andrew Avila / Alligator Members of Leadership Gainesville play kickball during the ACEL Champions for Charity Kickball Tournament on Saturday afternoon.

Volunteers show Valentine's love to area homeless

By CHRIS GLIDDEN Alligator Contributing Writer

Two days before the year's biggest celebration of love, one group of individuals decided to show love to the homeless.

Saturday morning, 110 volunteers flocked to Bo Diddley Community Plaza to treat the homeless community to a special Valentine's Day present of makeovers, haircuts, professional pictures, food, clothing and games.

The celebration lasted from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and between 150 and 170 homeless people attended, said Jennifer Smith, who planned the event.

Smith wanted to make sure the homeless knew they were loved, too.

She said her message to the homeless was simple.

"You're beautiful, you are accepted and you are loved," she said.

Student Life and said she knew many of the individuals she was serving. She said she here it was serving. She said she hoped the event would brighten up Valentine's Day for those who attended.

"We're going to try to make it special for them," she said. "It gets lonely on the streets."

The homeless were invited to participate in various services Smith and the group offered.

The makeover station consisted of five chairs lined up in front of a table decked with products ranging from L'Oreal to Mary Kay.

The homeless were free to sit while someone trimmed their hair and offered different beauty products for other needs.

After a makeover, they had the choice of being professionally photographed. Several background choices and flowers were provided.

Volunteers interacted with the homeless by playing Connect Four, hula-hooping, throwing a Frisbee and offering to help them select free clothing and jewelry from a table of donated material.

UF sophomore Christa Goad said her decision to volunteer at the event was simple.

"We can bless because we've been blessed," she said.

Egypt's president resigned Friday

EGYPT, from page 1

As thousands of Egyptians raised their signs and voices Jan. 25, the first day of protests, Muhammad waited by the phone for news of his brothers Mahmoud, 26, and Mustafa, 20.

For nearly 24 hours, Muhammad could not reach his family by phone. He couldn't help but worry about his brothers' safety.

By the end of the night, he had heard from Mustafa, who reassured him he was all right. Mahmoud didn't get home from protesting until the next day, when he called Muhammad with similar news.

Muhammad said he was proud of his brothers for joining the revolution.

"Many people who haven't participated in protests in their whole life are participating today," Muhammad said Thursday, one day before Mubarak ceded power to the military. "From what I see, the people are never going to give

up, and, actually, they are going to gain in numbers."

nation, there were others in Egypt who chose not to join the demonstrations but rather to protect their neighborhoods as the threat of violence hung heavy on their minds.

moment in history that's not going to happen again in our lives," Ahmed Mohamed said. "I told him [that] if I were in Egypt at the time I would have gone because that's history in the making.

But Ahmed Mohamed's brother committed himself to a different effort during the revolt: protecting his neighbors.

Ahmed Mohamed said said his brother wasn't afraid of being killed during the conflict. He knew if he were killed, it would be as a martyr for the cause.

Suwannee River Smokers won title BBQ, from page 1 main stage where comedian Alex Ortiz

nis Schmitz, lead contest representative for the Florida BBQ Association, labels Bryant's and other contestants' boxes with a number so only he knows its owner.

Tables of FBA-certified judges chatter in the back of the room while they wait for their samples. When volunteers hand out the samples, the room falls silent. Sounds

of chewing fill the building. One judge tugs a bite off a rib, grimaces, then slams it on his paper plate, splattering barbecue sauce on his score card.

"They need to quit smokin' mullet a weekend before the damn contest," said Richard Wolfe, a contest judge. "Don't cook mullet before the contest, guys, Jesus Christ!"

Because of an off-choice of grill meat, the flavor's completely off on this one, he said. Plus, it's mushy.

Pit bosses walk fine lines when it comes to their cooking. It's a balance between sweet and smoky, tender and firm, spiced and sauced. Too much of anything and they're done.

Judging lasts most of the afternoon. Some of the pit bosses wander over to the

jokes with the crowd and Jimmie Van Zant chimes a chorus of "Freebird."

By 5 p.m., it's time for awards. Volunteers roll out a table of trophies to be presented by girls wearing tiaras, cowboy boots and "Miss Bradford" sashes.

"They need to quit smokin' mullet a weekend before the damn contest."

Richard Wolfe contest judge

After the superlatives - best chicken, best brisket, best ribs and best pork - are announced, the crowd piles in to hear who will be the grand champions.

With the highest scores in each category, Craig Thomas and his crew, Suwannee River Smokers, trot up to the stage, chuckling and slapping one anothers' backs.

They get a three-foot trophy and a \$2,550 prize.

That doesn't matter, though. Most pit bosses throw away their trophies, anyway. Until his next competition, Thomas knows he makes Florida's best barbecue.

While Egyptians protested across the

Ahmed Mohamed urged his brother Mahmoud, a 54-year-old pediatrician in Cairo, to join the protests.

"I told him basically that this is a

GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION Commission candidates debate finances at forum

By C.J. PRUNER Alligator Staff Writer

With the voter registration deadline for city elections a day away, 11 City Commission candidates from three races converged on the Millhopper Branch Library on Sunday in an effort to shore up votes for their March showdown.

The central focus of the forum, which was divided into three onehour sessions for each respective race, revolved around the city's pocketbook.

One of the main points of contention involved the city's fire assessment fee, which helps fund fire services in the city.

Some, such as District 3 candidates Susan Bottcher and Ozzy Angulo, said the measure was necessary to ensure the city's fire department received financial backing in times of economic malaise.

"It's unfortunate that we had to come to that point, but the fee was necessary to fund it," Angulo said. Other commission candidates

didn't see it that way.

"I thought it was quite disgusting how they put this out in front of us," said at-large candidate Don Marsh. In regard to the city's overall budget, which is projected to run into \$8.3 million shortfall within the 2011-2012 fiscal years, candidates preached the importance of efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

District 2 candidate Robert Krames said in order for Gainesville's economy to grow, lower taxes and sharper cuts are necessary.

"It's going to be painful and hard, but we need to reduce the size of government," he said. "It can't be sustained any longer."

His opponent, James Ingle, expressed reservations toward swift cuts, especially regarding the city's work force.

"I don't think we can lay off people and think we can get out of this problem," Ingle said. "The more people we cut, the more work we're piling on people already working for us."

Commissioner Thomas Hawkins said that while tough decisions needed to be made, the city was not in a "world of deficits" as some may imply. Nevertheless, he reiterated there was more work to be done.

"We can't wave a magic wand and have change," Hawkins said. "It takes hard work."

Max Reed / Alligator Staff

District 3 City Commissioner candidate Jimmy Harnsberger speaks to a group of residents during a commission forum Sunday afternoon at the Millhopper Branch Library.

Local dentists host event to provide free treatment

■ TEN DENTISTS AND ABOUT 60 VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED.

By RACHEL STEPHENS

Alligator Contributing Writer

the Millhopper Family Dentistry parking lot Saturday morn-

ing. The dental office collaborated with local endodontists,

periodontists and oral surgeons for the event Care to Share,

which offered free fillings, extractions and cleanings.

About 200 people formed a line for free dental services in

ing up at 5:30 p.m. Friday to ensure a spot. The temperature dropped to 34 degrees during their wait.

"You brush your teeth and you wish for the best, and many families just can't afford it. That's a luxury for some families."

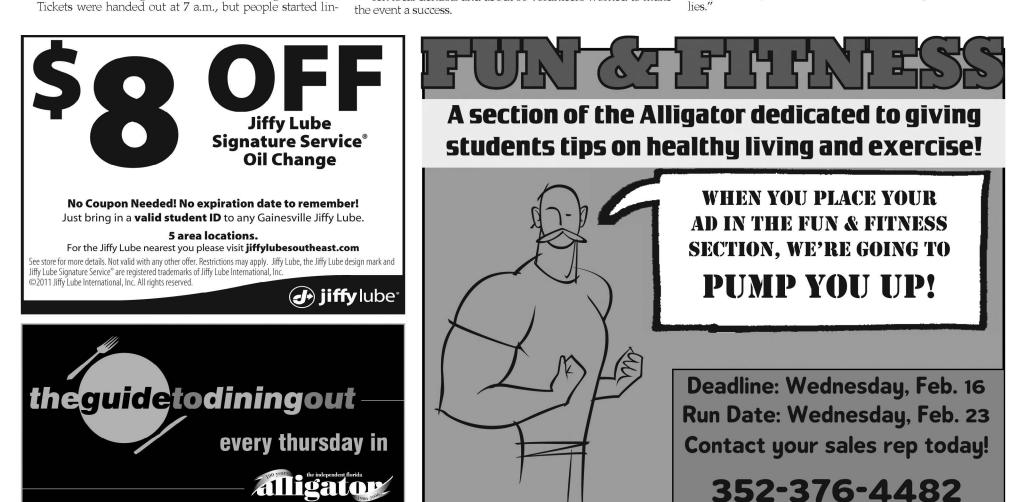
Milly Ruiz patient

The first 100 people who arrived received free care. Ten local dentists and about 60 volunteers worked to make the event a success. Tim Murphy, an administrative assistant for the office, said Care to Share was created to help out the community in this tough economic time.

Milly Ruiz, her husband and her 16-year-old son showed up at 6:15 p.m. Friday and set up a tent. They were fifth in line. She said she's grateful that Care to Share allowed her fam-

She said she's grateful that Care to Share allowed her family members to get the dental work they needed. She and her husband hadn't received a cleaning in more than a year, and her son needed to get his chipped tooth repaired.

"Dental insurance – that's usually on the back burner," she said. "You brush your teeth and you wish for the best, and many families just can't afford it. That's a luxury for some families."





Congratulations on your engagement Adam R. and Dorothy S.! I wish you only the best with your future. Good luck in Texas! I'll miss you both. l love you, 🎔 Daniella G.



To my Knight in a Raincoat: Thank you for riding the updraft (instead of damaging my long locks) and rescuing me from my tower. Let's celebrate our fairytale love story! With all my love, respect and faithfulness - Your Princess in the Chem Tower.

Marsheen • and • Kavne Thanks for all of your love and support I LOVE you both very much. _ove Always Zackery 🌳

To the veguaiest vegua of all the veguas The best yegua in yegua hitstory. Also, the worst yequa, but that's only because you are the only yegua.

Christy, I love you sooo much! appy Valentine's Day babe! Oh, and one more thing...PROM?? :) ♥ Timmy's father ;)

rjcg8r - happy valentine's day! love you forever! only 3 more days until our acation! fl. al. ms. la. tx. nm. az. ca. nv! viva las vegas! we'll have so much fun to infinity & beyond! hi Colt! . brenda

Halev.

You're the most amazing boyfriend and best friend I could have ever asked for Here's to our 34 month anniversary I love you! . Katelynn

A scientific evaluation of our relationship: The purpose of this experiment was to determine why you are still with me. Preliminary data suggests that you are neither fooled by my act nor mentally insane So, new empirical question: Am I actually worth all your trouble? And in conclusion: I hate you for using science against me. I love you for using science against me. Happy Valentine's Day - don't die.

You and I are meant to be We fit together so perfectly. My love for you will never cease 4 I have found my missing piece I love you Matt! 🌳 Love, Liz

LYLAnF

You have always been there for me, and just want to let you know that I will always be there for you. I love you Lingxi H.: I look forward to the many adventures to come as we live our lives together. From: David P.

Happy Valentine's Day Cassie!

I am not with you right now, but I truly wish that I could be! We can't enjoy it today but we can enjoy it exactly a year from now, in the same spot you're standing in right now. I can't wait! I love you baby! Love, . Jason

RENAISSANCE JEWELERS Love is everlasting ... But you should get some Jewelry just in case. 3435 W. Univ. Ave

To my Gator boy in VA I
 how quickly we alternate between intellectual and silly. You are the perfect boy for me. Cub.

• and miss you. Toodles, Llama

You're the most amazing woman! You're beautiful, smart, funny, witty, & gordeous. I want to spend the rest of my life with you & share every low and every high. No matter what obstacles we will face I know we can stand side by side & do anything. I trus you & love you with my whole soul, heart & mind. You help make me the man I am today. I never take a single moment with you for granted I will love you always and forever, Nico

To my ely Baby Momma!

Happy Valentine's Day! I can't believe Xavier s going to be here next month. You are the best wife and cannot imagine how wonderful you are going to be as a mother! Love :) Your Baby Daddy/Husband

Morgan, You're the most beautiful girl in the world and I love you ♥! :) -Alex

Yvonne

"You & me, & me & you No matter how they tossed the dice ... Wanna serenade the world with me some time in the future? Brother Four.

I could jumble with you forever • love you Love, Your Lobste

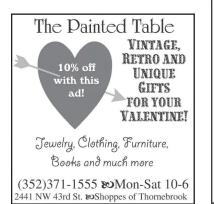
Roses are Red Violets are Blue Cherry Coke is the sweetest soda in the But none to compare to all of you! To all the Lovely Ladies of the Alligator Brandon

In dreams and in love, there are no impossibilities Happy Valentines' Day, Tyler Love, Steph •

To all my lovely Dancin' Gators: Thank you for all the opportunities and grea friendships that you have given to me. I love you all! Happy Valentines Day! Jackie T.

Hev There! Wondering what I was doing on my computer that one evening? I was writing this! Anyway, have a good day in Heat Transfer. :) Have a nice Monday-day

TO THE CREATOR OF CLUB SNUG I LOVE YOU MORE THAN CHEESE -ME 🖤



I love you always and forever, my princess.

Our dearest Vicki, You are far from icky. You keep us out of situations that are very sticky. So roses are red, violets are blue You're Wonder Woman and we 🎔 you! Love, Serina & Steph • • •

Rayven

The past 3 years and 5 months have been the best of my life because of you. Thank you for helping me to get where I am today. Happy Valentine's Day. Love always, Sear

Booshwa

You are the most amazing person and couldn't imagine being with anyone else! love you infinitely, Cozybear 🎔

To Laura, I love you so much!

You're the only Lady that I'm Gaga for! Michael

BSW

I can't envision what college would have been like without you. I wouldn't trade the past four years for anything, and spending them with you has definitely made me a bet ter man Love BCS

Happy Valentine's Day Teddy L. l love you. 🎔

I love you Jesus!

4 My Baby Girl - Brittany.

proud of you.

Dear Katia -

ing, never ceasing.

be...but with you!

• Moira

Daniella

Always, Daddy

Thank you for dving for my sins, saving me

from eternal death and filling me with real

love! This is a beautiful day that you have

You are the greatest joy in my life ... you lift

me up when I'm down. Smile cause I am so

We've visited many places: Charleston, New

and I've realized there's nowhere I'd rathe

Orleans, Asheville, to name a few:

made. May your love shine through it - Your daughter, Vonecia

Dear Darla, I hate your stinkin' guts. You make me vomit You are the scum between my toes. Love, Alfalfa

To the Dancin' Gators Love you all so much Happy Valentines' Day Ally XOXO

To my fab interns, You both are amazing! 8 & 9 dream team for life! Ally XOXO

To my amazing Phi fam, I love you all so much! Happy Valentine's Day! Love always. Ally XOXO

Dear My Beautiful Roomie: Thanks for the late night talks, stupid jokes and the cuddle sessions. We wuff you (even when you yell at us for our messes) (Serina and Willis) • •



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Teej.. you are the best thing that has ever happened to me. I honestly can't describe how amazing our relationship is, but I can easily describe how I am the happiest girl in the world! I never want to be wthout you Will you be my Valentine again and stay my Valentine forever? I love you TJ •

Dear girlfriend-in-chief (Allie), You're smart, sweet, gorgeous and so much fun. You make me the happiest boy in the world. We have such a bright future mean the world to me baby. Love, Paul.

i 🎔 you and always will, thank you for loving

dear fsa

yours truly, dorothy

To the most amazing Bigs and Co-Littles in the world: Tammy, Lili, Taps, Cheryl, Jenny, Amanda & Peter • and BFFs Yanica and Chris! ILY guys!

> Pineapple, Since I have met you I wake up with a smile Somehow you broke down my walls and I'm so happy you did. Thank you for being my Love, Kiwi rocky road ice cream!

me back :) happy valentine's day!





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.

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Oh facebook wife

Without you I'd surely be

Exterminated

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Ramen, Udon- none can beat

My Noodle Stroodle

Mom. I can't even begin to tell you what this last year has meant for me You have taught me to be a strong person and for that I could never repay you. So much love. Ashlev

Even though you drive me crazy sometime

I wouldn't trade my menfolk for anything!

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l love vou all.



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Spending college with you has been wonder-

ful in every way. We have grown so much in the past four years, and I have had many

amazing times with you - I cannot wait for the

ones to come! Happy Valentine's Day to my

For your message read Jer 31:3. Now start

your day off right! There is a cup of coffee

waiting for you at the CSC! Pick it up first

Thank you for being my supportive, loving

P.S. Chris- Welcome to the Gator Nation

thing today, just tell them your name

Love, your secret valentine friends :)

Mom, Dad, and Chris-

best friend, I will always love you

XOXO, Kate

You are the chocolate to my chocolate cake. Without you it'd just be cake, delicious! BUT just not as good. Pineannle l 🎔 you.

The limit of my heart as you approach me is undefined, infinity. I differentiate it, my thoughts race. I do it again, my heart acceler ates, (delta)S introduced us, (delta)H fused us together, so integrate me by parts and I will calc-u-later... oh veah!

ebecca

You don't marry someone you can live with you marry the person who you cannot live Garv

Wild Bradganoe appeared Alex used confusion. It's super effective Wild Bradganoe used attract

Alex fell in love Happy Valentine's Day!

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SHANE Another Valentine's Day Another chance to say

Llove living next door Each day I love you more Happy Valentine's Day, Tricia

Wendy,

You are the best little sister ever I love you with all my 🎔

Carly, Jesse, Serina & Stephanie You 4 are so awesome! Each of you is always there to help whenever I need anything! 🎔 Vicki 🎔

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P.S. I would catch a grenade for you!



family. Happy Valentine's Day!

Hugs, Kisses, and Love, Kate



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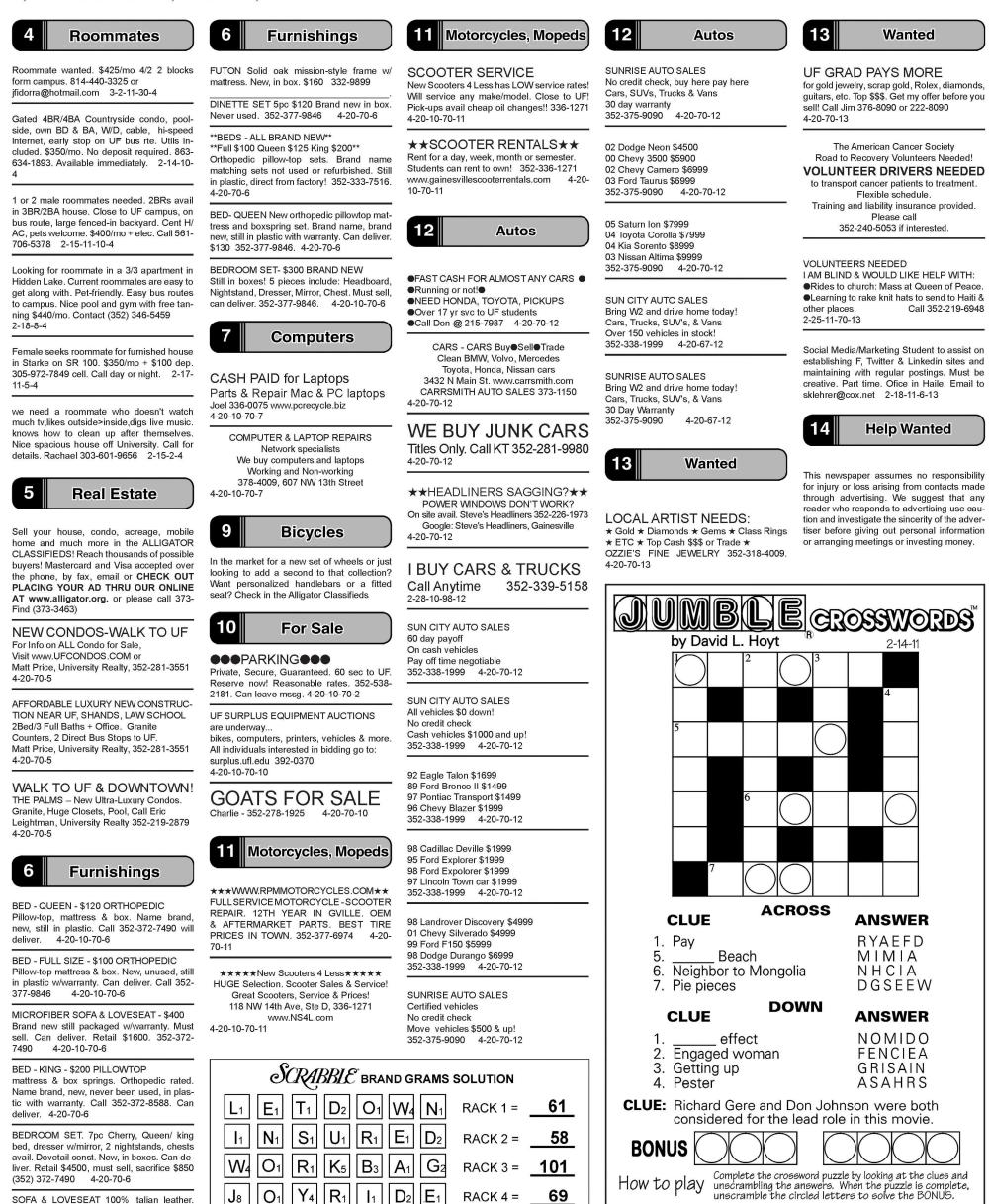
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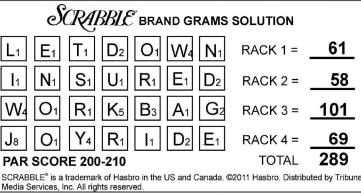
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the ends of 20-, 38- and 53-Across DOWN 1 [Heavens!] 2 Cracked open 3 Nativity trio By Ian Livengood (c)2011 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 02/14/11

Sports monda; MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

Walker's late layup seals win UF sweeps UT for first time in nine years

By GREG LUCA Alligator Staff Writer uca@alligator.org

Facing yet another must-score situation with the clock winding down, the Gators turned to the same man they have all season: Erving Walker.

Trailing by one with 20 seconds remaining, Walker received a pass from Alex Tyus and dribbled across half court.

The junior guard hesitated for a moment, crossed from his right hand to his left, split three Tennessee defenders and hit a lefty layup high off the glass, propelling the No. 17 Gators (20-5, 9-2 Southeastern Conference) to a 61-60 win over the Volunteers on Saturday night in the O'Connell Center.

"I was just trying to make the best play that was available," Walker said. "When I went through the lane, the lane kind of opened up, and I saw I had to take this."

"It's a good sign when you can still win a game and play how we played today. This definitely wasn't our best basketball, but we were able to get a win, and any time we can string together wins in this league, it's a great thing."

Erving Walker UF junior guard

Tennessee (15-10, 5-5 SEC) held a comfortable lead for the first nine minutes of the second half and had one last chance to win in the closing seconds, but Melvin Goins' step-back threepointer caught only iron at the buzzer.

"It's a good sign when you can still win a game and play how we played today," Walker said. "This definitely wasn't our best basketball, but we were able to get a win, and any time we can string together wins in this league, it's a great thing."

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Saturday? Want a behind-the-scenes look at

ESPN College Basketball GameDay? Check

out our fifth show at alligatorSports.org.

Reptiles lined up at the crack of dawn last

Although Vernon Macklin was on the bench in the closing moments, Florida's comeback would not have been possible without the senior center's contributions.

Macklin was forced to sit due to foul trouble after just 1:39 of the second half.

Shortly after the senior returned to the lineup with 10:53 remaining, he recorded four points, a steal and an assist, igniting an 11-2 Gators run.

That was huge," Macklin said. "Coach (Billy Donovan) wanted us to bring the spark. He came to me at halftime and told me, 'Let's go, step up, be a man."

The senior attributed his most impressive play — a steal at the top of the key followed by a fastbreak dunk - to observing Tennessee's tendencies as he watched from the sideline.

The run Macklin sparked coincided with a rise in defensive intensity, as UF held UT to just 13 points in the final 10 minutes.

That included just one from Scotty Hopson, who had scored 21 prior to that stretch.

Hopson's size, speed and quickness gave defenders Scottie Wilbekin, Chandler Parsons and Kenny Boynton fits all night before UF finally ratcheted up its defense to close the contest.

"It's definitely tough trying to guard Scotty Hopson," Boynton said. "He's a driver and a shooter. When he jumps up for a shot, it's like I'm not even there." Despite the win, Florida's

enx xo

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 19

Resilient Gators learn to overcome heartbreak

f basketball is a metaphor for life, Billy Donovan delivered one of the most melodramatic lines about love I've ever heard.

"You can't really win, and win big, until your heart really gets broken," he said last week. "You find out how important winning is to you."

The Gators should not have won Saturday. Tennessee shot a higher percentage from the

field, had seven more steals and outscored Florida 34-24 in the paint.

Donovan even said he was unhappy with his team's performance. But the Gators did win, because

Tyler Jett The Jett Stream tjett@alligator.org Twitter: @JettStreamin

this group understands heartbreak — as much heartbreak as you can experience playing a sport, at least. With the exception of the fresh-

men, this group has seen its share of disappointments, seen too many games it should have won slip away in crunch time.

But when it mattered most on Saturday, the Gators outplayed the Vols and walked off the court with a W.

More than anything else, there is one glaring difference between this year's team and the three previous squads:

SEE TYLER, PAGE 19

Florida guard Erving Walker goes to the hoop against Tennessee's Steven Pearl in UF's 61-60 win Saturday in the O'Connell Center.

UF SOFTBALL Ace throws perfect game in 5-0 weekend

By STEPHEN SHEEHAN Alligator Writer

It didn't take long for the Gators to hit their stride.

The No. 5 Florida softball team wrapped up its first weekend of the season with an impressive 12-0 win against South Florida at the USF-hosted Wilson DeMarini Tournament in Clearwater.

Led by senior Stephanie Brombacher, who pitched the second perfect game of her career Saturday against North Carolina State, the Gators went 5-0 during their opening weekend.

Florida scored 53 runs, slammed a whopping 14 home runs and recorded an .803 slugging percentage.

The key to the offense? Getting started early.

> Percent (Votes) 63% (17)

> > 19% (5)

19% (5)

27 TOTAL VOTES

Center fielder Michelle Moultrie and second baseman Aja Paculba both went 9 for 18 at the plate and scored a combined 16 runs as the Gators outscored their opponents 53-3.

Paculba was the spark plug



again Sunday as she ignited the offense with a solo home run in the first inning.

Left fielder Kelsey Bruder added a tworun homer in

the fifth, her third of the season. The senior also hit a triple and is tied for the team lead with 10 RBIs

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 19

ONLINE

Head over to alligatorSports. org for all our full stories as well as podcasts, video shows and Twitter updates. And don't forget to "Like" our podcast on Facebook.

Which spring sport's opening day are you most looking forward to?

alligatorSports Podcast

POLL RESULTS

Baseball

Softball

Lacrosse

will have a new podcast up featuring plenty of talk about the Florida basketball team.

Previous question: Keep an eye on your iTunes feeds this afternoon, as we

drew even on penalties

with the Tar Heels. The

glaring issue to O'Leary,

though, was how poorly

her team reacted to free-

position shots, which are

comparable to penalty

less in four attempts and

twice missed the goal alto-

gether, while UNC scored

three goals off of nine

have those free opportu-

nities at the goal and not take advantage of them," O'Leary said. "That was

one of the things I was

most disappointed in. ...

shots during every prac-

tice, O'Leary said, so she

couldn't understand how

it came up short on all of

them. Cullen, who had the

hot stick on the day, went

0 for 2 on free-position at-

As UF goes back to the drawing board before its

next game Feb. 16 against

Jacksonville, O'Leary said

her team's emotions after

this loss differ from last

from not getting its first

win against a top-five team

has turned into anger for

be really excited and will want to go out and just kill

them by even more just to

show everyone that we are

really here this season,"

Cullen said.

"We're just going to

year's embarrassment. And the frustration

many of the players.

tempts.

Florida practices free

There's no excuse."

"That hurt us. You can't

Florida came up score-

kicks in soccer.

tries.

Gators blow first-half lead against Tide

By MATT WATTS Alligator Writer

The Gators' ninth loss in Southeastern Conference play, a 64-59 defeat in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Sunday, was a microcosm of their season.

Florida led by 10 points at halftime, only to once again squander a good 20 minutes of basketball with an abundance of mistakes in the second half.

Eleven turnovers preceded the first field goal for Florida coming out of the break, and Alabama quickly turned the double-digit deficit into its first lead since a 4-2 advantage in the opening minutes.

"Just an absolute lack of composure in turning the ball over," Florida coach Amanda Butler said. "In the second half, (we) came out and did everything we possibly could to ensure that we weren't going to win."

The Gators (14-13, 4-9 SEC) controlled the flow of the game in the first half and seemed poised to win a tough game on the road in the inaugural contest held at Alabama's newly renovated Foster Auditorium

Utilizing a completely different strategy from the teams' first meeting, Florida fed the low block with success early. Instead of chucking it up from out-side, post players Azania Stewart, Ndidi Madu and Jennifer George keyed the offense and combined for 24 of the team's 34 points at halftime.

But Florida couldn't even hold on to the ball when the second period began and didn't have a chance to establish a rhythm on offense.

"We turned the ball over before we could throw it into the paint," Butler said. "We just seemed determined to throw the ball where they were or let



them take it out of our hands." Both teams mixed it up on defense throughout, and Florida actually held the turnover advantage at the half (12 to 11). But Basketball Alabama's half-court press and on-ball traps gave UF headaches.

The Crimson Tide (13-12, 2-10 SEC) accrued an astonishing 19 steals, easily com-

pensating for a 44-27 beating on the boards. "I just thought we had absolute mental collapses and acted like we didn't expect their pressure," Butler said.

Following eight field goals in the first half, the Tide turned defense into offense and shot 12 of 25 in the second, including a three from guard Jasmine Robinson that sparked a 14-4 run.

After trailing by 10 at half, Alabama built its own 10-point lead with less than nine minutes to play, and it appeared the Gators were ready to fold.

Then, guards Deana Allen and Jaterra Bonds drilled three-pointers on successive possessions, and Florida put together a 7-0 run to pull within two.

But again, turnovers struck.

Allen and Bonds gave it away on the Gators' next two trips down the floor, and Alabama pulled away

The loss is Florida's fourth straight and eighth in its last 10 games. The Gators were in position to win five of those contests and now have lost eight games by six points or less.

Despite an RPI of 62, the Gators' chances of reaching the NCAA Tournament for the first time since the 2008-09 season fade with each loss. And with a week off before facing Mississippi State at home, Butler said the team has plenty to work on.

"Unity, togetherness, work on our chemistry — we looked very disjointed," Butler said, before moving on to the common buzzword of Florida women's basketball.

"Toughness," she said. "We were awful soft today.'

UF LACROSSE Florida drops close game to UNC

By JOHN BOOTHE Alligator Writer

The goal post got in the way of glory for the No. 17 Gators on Saturday.

In the final five seconds of a tie game against No. 3 North Carolina, Florida sophomore Ashley Bruns hurled one last desperation shot at Tar Heels goalkeeper Lauren Maksym.

"I didn't even think I had enough time to rip the shot off, but yeah, it definitely hit the pipe," Bruns said.

The near miss would haunt the Gators in overtime

North Carolina's leading scorer, senior Corey Donohoe, split two Florida defenders with seven seconds left and capitalized on her final chance to be the day's hero, downing the Gators 10-9 in overtime.

"We knew she would be the one to take the last shot," UF coach Amanda O'Leary said. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to get the double team down there fast enough, and that's something we definitely had to talk about after the game."

While she wasn't happy with the way her team handled the final seconds of its upset bid, O'Leary was impressed by Florida's ability to battle back after it fell behind by three goals in the first 14 minutes.

crumbled Florida against UNC last season when the Tar Heels put on

the pressure in the second half with a 12-1 run.

This time around, the Gators returned the favor by going on an 8-3 charge. The run was led by sophomore Kitty Cullen, who scored four goals, including two in less than a minute.

"Once we finally got the ball, we just focused on keeping a little bit of possession and taking a couple of deep breaths before we went in and tried to start scoring," Cullen said.

Florida proved throughout the afternoon it has progressed in many of the areas that plagued the team last season against ranked competition.

The Gators had fewer turnovers, more shots and



Florida sophomore Ashley Bruns had a chance to secure a win against No. 3 North Carolina in the final five seconds Saturday, but her shot bounced off the goal post.

Smith, Johnson lead UF to key win

THE SENIOR AND FRESHMAN WERE INSPIRED BY FAMILIAR FACES AMID A HOSTILE CROWD.

By ALLISON BANKO Alligator Writer

The Florida gymnastics team walked into Stegeman Coliseum on Saturday with a loud, barking crowd outnumbering its supporters by the thousands.

But coming from the sold-out stands, senior Maranda Smith heard a familiar voice.

Let's go, Gators!"

Whenever Smith's father walks into a gymnastics meet, he makes his presence known when he shouts three comforting words. While her parents travel from California and usually come to every home meet, they told her that they wouldn't be able to make it to UF's road meet in Athens, Ga.

As it turned out, that wasn't exactly true.

"My parents surprised me," she said. "It was funny because I heard my dad yell. I just figured, knowing my parents, they wouldn't ever miss a competition like this.

The Bulldogs are one of the Gators' biggest rivals, and No. 1 Florida overwhelmed them in a 197.725-196.600 win.

Smith said she was fired up knowing her parents were there before the meet kicked off, and she carried that fire over into her competition.

But Johnson had a cheering section of her own, too. Her mother's side of the family hails from Georgia, and a crowd of more than 40 relatives turned out to support the

"There were people in my family that I haven't even met, like my mom's cousins," Johnson said. "I didn't know

The three-time SEC Freshman Gymnast of the Week didn't disappoint as she tied with two other teammates

for first on vault, tied for second on floor, beam

earning the magic "10" score from one half of the judging panel.

that I got a 10. The other girls were all going crazy telling me about the 10, but I

put it to the side and got ready for vault." Her scores propelled her into the No. 1 spot for the allaround competitors with a final tally of 39.675, the nation's top total.

Fellow all-arounder Dickerson also shined against the Bulldogs, placing second overall while tying for first on vault and beam and sweeping the floor exercise.

She nabbed first place on vault, tying teammates Ashanée Dickerson and Alaina Johnson.

freshman gymnast.

that there was that many."

was part of a three-way tie for third on Most notably, she tied for first on bars,

"I usually don't look at my scores," she said. "I actually didn't even know

UF beats two top-10 foes on road

By THOMAS NASSIFF Alligator Writer

With two sophomores playing at the top of the lineup, one junior who sees regular playing time and no seniors on the roster, one might expect the Florida women's team to get rattled on the road

But the No. 2 Gators (7-0) had their most impressive stretch of the season over the weekend, toppling No. 4 North Carolina on Saturday and No. 6 Duke on Sunday.

The team carried momentum from its 5-2 win over the Tar Heels into Durham, N.C., with a furious pace, resulting in a 4-2 victory against the Blue Devils.

With his team fresh off two wins over undefeated opponents, coach Roland Thornqvist said this was about as tough as it could get for the Gators.

"We had three freshmen go out there this weekend and got tossed into the fire for the first time," he said.

While the freshmen had mixed results over the weekend, Thornqvist said he wasn't panicking about his young players and thought the experience would help in the long run. Freshman Sofie Oyen, ranked No. 96 in singles, rebounded after two straight losses to

upset No. 71 Elizabeth Plotkin of Duke. The other two freshmen, Alex Cercone and

Tennis

Olivia Janowicz, lost in singles but were carried by the Gators' leaders. No. 7 Allie Will, a sophomore, continued her dominance on

Court 1, beating No. 25 Nadine Fahoum in straight sets a day after topping No. 13 Zoe De Bruycker of UNC.

Junior Joanna Mather clinched the victory with her second straight three-set win, leaving sophomore Lauren Embree's match against No. 4 Reka Zsilinszka unfinished with the two tied at one set apiece.

"Allie, Joanna and Lauren all play at an elite level and make clutch decisions late in matches," Thornqvist said. "That poise is what you need on the road."

The Gators will now head into a short week of preparation for the ITA National Indoor Championships, which kick off Friday in Charlottesville, Va.

"We scheduled this trip to get some meat on our bones," Thornqvist said. "We learned some things, won two tough matches and we're ready to compete."

UF SWIMMING Dodson reels in gold at SECs

By MELISSA PENDER Alligator Writer

After a record-setting weekend, Florida senior Monica Dodson appeared to be losing her grip on a Southeastern Conference title Sun-

day. The race for first place in the SEC women's platform finals at the SEC

Championships was a close one, as Dodson once again battled Auburn divers Vennie Dantin and Anna Aguero, whom she had beaten for first place in the 3-meter competition just two days before.

It seemed Aguero might take the title until the fourth round, when Dodson overtook her with a dive that made UF coach Donnie

Craine pump his fists in the air and left him speechless.

"Monica winning, I don't have words for it," Craine said.

"I've always loved my back two-and-a-half pike. It hasn't always been my best dive but my most consistent," Dodson added. 'I knew if I could get over my nerves, I'd be OK."

Dodson finished with two more high-scoring dives to once again bring the gold medal home for the Florida women's team.

"Top three on these two boards was definitely my goal," Dodson said. "I knew I had a shot to win, but it was going to be a hard contest.

Her score of 325.2 was, for the second time in three days, a personal, school and SEC record.

Junior Kaylee Doback and freshman Danielle Risley also scored points with 10th- and 11th-place finishes in the preliminary round.

The men had three scoring finishes, taking seventh, 10th and 14th in the prelims. Junior Anthony Lewark finished seventh in the finals despite an injured shoulder that prevented him from practicing his platform dives.

"He did a real good job pulling it all together," Craine said.

The SEC honored Craine with his second straight and third career SEC Women's Diving Coach of the Year, and Dodson received SEC Women's Diver of the Year.

"It's unbelievable," Craine said. "Monica did a lot of it, but the other two also had a lot to do with it."

The men earned 49 points throughout the weekend, which puts them in a distant third place behind Auburn and Tennessee going into Wednesday's swimming championships. The women are in second place behind Auburn with

alligator





Walton pleased with new infielders' intensity during opening weekend



UF senior right-hander Stephanie Brombacher threw the second perfect game of her career Saturday against North Carolina State and followed that up with a four-hit, nine-strikeout performance Sunday.

SOFTBALL, from page 16

"Every season starts differently for me," she said. "I never walk to the plate thinking 'I want to hit a home run,' but right now, I'm seeing the ball really well."

While Brombacher said there are some expectations after pitching a perfect game, she didn't let that pressure affect her mentality. She also said she and her teammates didn't realize she was pitching a perfect game until it was over.

Following the perfect game, Brombacher shut down the Bulls lineup Sunday, allowing only four hits and recording nine strikeouts.

As for the new left side of the infield, highly touted freshmen Kasey Fagan and Cheyenne Coyle did not disappoint.

Coach Tim Walton was pleased with the way they maintained their intensity over the long weekend and was particularly happy with the way freshman Hannah Rogers pitched right out of the gate.

Coyle homered in her first col-

legiate at-bat against Marshall and added two more during the weekend.

For a player who prides herself on defense, she attributed her early success at the plate to UF's coach-

"I've always been known for my defense as the strongest part of my game," she said. "Now, I have a better approach when I go up to bat. Coach Walton taught me you don't hit the inside pitch the same as the outside pitch, where before I used to go up just swinging."

Although Fagan only managed to go 3 for 11, she recorded two stolen bases and did not commit an error.

The early success of the team's young players didn't surprise Bruder

"I really don't even consider them to be true freshmen because a lot of them are more mature than typical freshmen are," she said. "We're really counting on them to do a lot for us this season, and I think that's a role they can fulfill."

Parsons' hot streak ends due to thigh bruise suffered vs. UT **HOOPS**, from page 16

players came away from the game unhappy with their intensity level in the early going.

The Gators allowed the Volunteers to shoot 53.6 percent in the first half and turned the ball over 10 times, creating a six-point halftime deficit.

"Maybe these last two games, we've been kind of



feeling like we're going to get an easy win," Wilbekin said. "But we pulled through in the end, so that's all that matters."

PARSONS HAMPERED BY INJURY: Parsons came into Saturday's contest on one of the most prolific hot streaks of his career.

But he recorded just three points, three rebounds and four turnovers against UT as he dealt with a deep thigh bruise suffered when he collided with Tyus early in the game. Donovan said he will likely keep Parsons out of action until Thursday.

He added that he is "hopeful" the senior forward will be able to play in Florida's next game Feb. 20 against LSU.

TYLER, from page 16

These Gators have onions. Big onions.

Since dropping a 72-69 contest to South Carolina on Jan. 15, UF is 5-0 in games that were decided by fewer than six points or went to overtime.

The previous two seasons, the Gators were 9-12

in those games. More revealing, Florida was 3-7 in tight games af-

ter January during that stretch. When the Gators received a No. 9 preseason rank-

ing in the coaches poll, the consensus was, "Surely this group has finally put it together."

"We've been there, done that. We've lost a lot of close games in the past," senior Alex Tyus said. "Our hunger is a lot stronger now than [it] had been when we were younger."

In recent years, Donovan tried everything from stripping the team of its practice uniforms to bringing in fire-breathing velociraptor Joakim Noah to motivate them. But no ploy really worked.

Which brings us back to heartbreak.

Since Donovan won back-to-back championships, his teams have always flashed potential before fading down the stretch, leaving a nasty taste in the mouths of the few hardcore basketball fans in this football-centric town.

With the exception of Vernon Macklin, who transferred from Georgetown as a junior, no current Florida player has won an NCAA Tournament game.

Judging by their last five nail-biters, the upperclassmen are tired of wondering what could have been.

Senior Chandler Parsons has been the team's most effective option as of late. But even when he was hampered with a deep thigh bruise, other veterans stepped up.

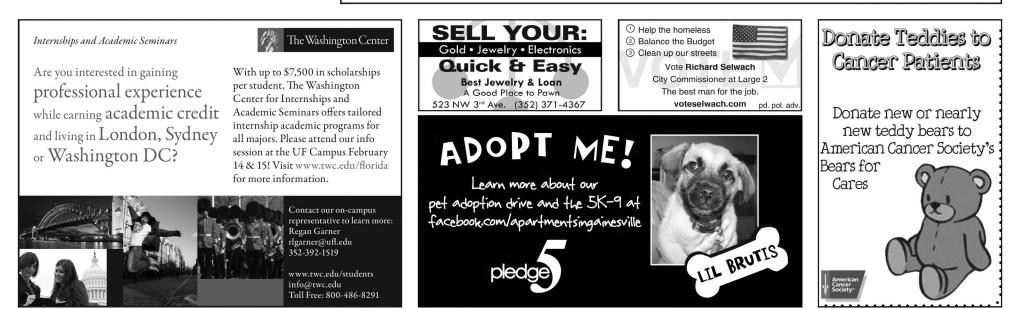
In the last 15 minutes of the game, Walker, Tyus and Macklin scored 20 of the team's 28 points. Walker deservedly received the most credit for hitting the game-winning layup.

But earlier in the second half the momentum was shifted when Macklin and Tyus — Macklin and Tyus, of all people — intercepted Tennessee passes and scored fast-break slams.

Macklin's jam came with 8:30 left and capped a 10-4 UF run. Tyus' dunk came with 4:17 left and gave the Gators a two-point lead.

"I love coaching these guys, I really do," Donovan said. "There is a fighting mentality in them. They have a fighting spirit. Even when things aren't going well, they never quit on me.

"They never, ever quit on each other. They battle. They fight. They're resilient. ... That, to me, is an incredible quality."



No. 4 golfer finishes No. 1

ANDRES ECHAVARRIA WON THE INDIVIDUAL TITLE AS UF TOOK THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP.

By ALEX PECKHAM Alligator Writer

Florida coach Buddy Alexander found himself in an unusual position Sunday af-ternoon on the Mark Bostick Golf Course.

Four players ended up tied with even par scores for the 54-hole tournament, and three of them were Gators.

"I was really happy with it," Alexander said. "It really says something about our depth that we can have three players contending that late in a tournament."

Florida senior Andres Echavarria was the last man standing in the four-hole, sudden-death playoff.

Echavarria ousted sophomore teammate Phillip Choi after the first hole, senior standout Bank Vongvanij after three holes and finally, Florida State senior Drew Kittleson on the deciding fourth hole.

It was a gutsy performance by Echavarria, who made up a two-stroke deficit to Kittleson in the last three holes before outlasting the three other competitors in the

playoff. Florida won the Gator Invitational by a dominant margin, beating second-place Auburn by nine strokes. Despite a 4-overpar score for the tournament, Alexander was not impressed by the Gators' play.

"We played well enough to win, but not good by our standards," he said. "We let Auburn back into it in the middle of the final round, which I was really disappointed with. We definitely have a lot to work on."



third in five events going back to the fall. They will look to continue their recent run of success at the John Hayt Invitational at the Sawgrass Country Club on Feb. 27.

According to Alexander, UF's depth will be the key to its continued success.

At his weekly press conference, Alexander said his No. 4 player would be the best in the nation at the position, no matter who he chooses. That bold statement proved to be a fitting prelude to the weekend's events.

Listed as the Florida's No. 4 golfer for the tournament: Andres Echavarria, 2011 Gator Invitational Champion.

Eight reach NCAAs for UF By JOE MORGAN

Alligator Writer

Florida coach Mike Holloway says the Gators are gunning for the 2011 national championship this season, not defending their 2010 crown.

After a weekend that saw eight Florida track and field athletes post automaticqualifying marks, the Gators have made that perfectly clear.

One Gator who added to his NCAA Indoor Championships workload was jumper Will Claye, who automatically qualified in the long jump with a fourthplace finish Friday.

"I wasn't expecting to jump that far," Claye said.

Člaye recorded a 7.95m/26-1 mark in the long jump, but The Bowerman award candidate's triple jump effort may have been even more impressive.

Claye posted a 17.02m/55-10.25 mark, the second-best effort in school history.

Sprinter Tony McQuay enjoyed a successful weekend as well, recording an automatic-qualifying mark in the 400-meter dash Friday and nearly doing the same in the 200-meter dash Saturday.

"I was kind of surprised at my time because I haven't really been training as

hard as I have in the past because I pulled my hamstring," McQuay said. In addition to Claye and McQuay, sprinter Jeff Demps posted an automatic-qualifying mark in the 60-meter dash Sat-urday, finishing second in 6.58 seconds.

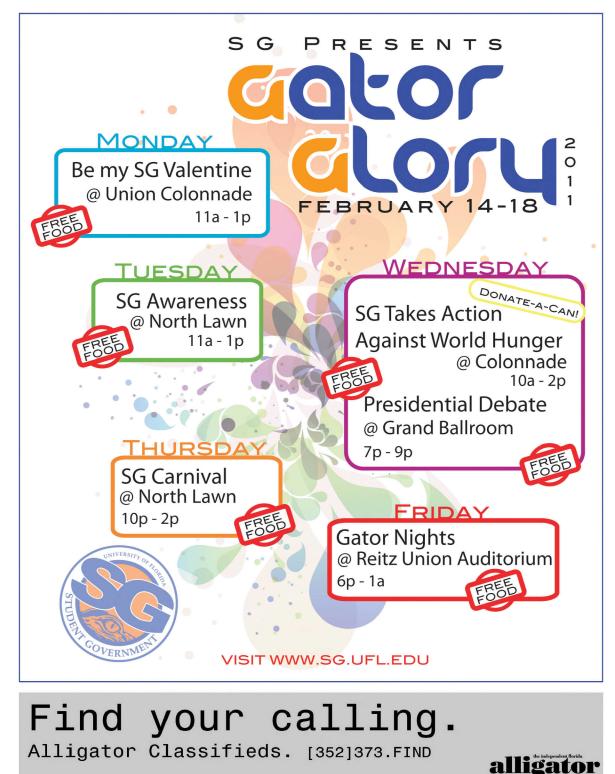


Meanwhile, distance runner Dumisane Hlaselo made school history Saturday in Seattle, as he became the first Gator to ever run a sub-four-minute mile.

Hlaselo ran the mile in 3:56.84, earning a trip to the national meet along with women's distance runner Cory McGee.

McGee ran her mile in 4:36.53, which was a personal record for the freshman.

"Definitely the two highlights," dis-tance coach Todd Morgan said. "A lot of good things happened in about a 15-minute span.'



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